

UFC 83: Georges St Pierre vs Matt Serra Betting Preview

Contributed by Scott Burgess
Saturday, 19 April 2008
Last Updated Tuesday, 27 May 2008

Former UFC welterweight champion Georges "Rush" St. Pierre (15-2) is ready to drop the "former" from his title and reclaim the top spot in the 170-pound division. He's facing arch-rival Matt Serra (9-4) in the main event of UFC 83: Serra vs. St. Pierre 2. St. Pierre says he can't wait to step inside the octagon on Saturday, April 19 in his hometown of Montreal. Sportsbook.com have Georges St. Pierre as -450 odds favorite against underdog Matt Serra +300 odds.

"It's a dream come true, it's a great opportunity for me to shine in front of my people by winning the world title, and that's the guy I've wanted to fight for a long time, too, because he beat me. I can't wait, it's going to be fun."

The first time Serra and St. Pierre fought, almost one year ago in UFC 69, GSP was the huge favorite. But Matt Serra shocked all of Canada, and the world, when he knocked out GSP 3:25 into the first round. Serra first caught St. Pierre with a damaging right hook, and then he executed a flurry of punches as GSP struggled to recover. GSP eventually fell to the mat, where Serra continued striking until the referee stopped the fight. Serra became the UFC Welterweight Champion. This was considered a tremendous upset, as Matt Serra was an 11-to-1 underdog against St. Pierre. This would be Serra's last fight due to back injuries, Saturday's fight against GSP will be his first in one year.

They were set to fight again in UFC 79, but Serra had back issues and the fight was put off. Until Matt Hughes stepped up and said "I'll fight him". GSP defeated Hughes via submission (armbar) at 4:52 of the second round to become the Interim UFC Welterweight Champion. GSP thanked the UFC for the interim belt but took it off stating that "the real champion is Matt Serra and until I get my belt back I am not going to consider myself champion".

Heading into the rematch, St. Pierre is promising to show his fans something new. "People will see some stuff that I've never shown before," he says, "some stuff people have never seen in MMA. It's going to be interesting. Don't blink because the fight can finish very early, or it can go to the distance, but don't blink."

Most notable wins for GSP: Matt Hughes(2), Josh Koscheck, BJ Penn, Sean Sherk, Frank Trigg and Karo Parisyan

Most notable wins for Matt Serra: GSP, Chris Lytle, Ivan Menjivar and Jeff Curran

UFC 83: George St. Pierre vs Matt Serra 2
When: April 19, 2008 10:00 PM ET
Line: Sportsbook.com
Pick: St. Pierre -450

The Bottom Line: GSP is pumped and excited to be fighting in Canada, in his hometown, and he's going to put on a show that will be talked about for a while. He's the most athletic well rounded pound for pound best fighter in the UFC. Matt Serra hasn't fought in a year and his conditioning and stamina will be questionable. Get your UFC 83 Prediction in Now!